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SUTHERS, Patrick F. and C. Applicant herewith submits to the United Sta	ates Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US)	the following items and other information:
1. X This is a FIRST submission of items	s concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.	
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	ording. A separate cover sheet in compliance	with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
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19. A second copy of the English language	guage translation of the international applicat	tion under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
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PRODUCTION OF 3-HYDROXYPROPIONIC-ACID IN RECOMBINANT ORGANISMS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application S.N. 5 60/151,440 filed August 30, 1999.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

The research project which gave rise to the invention described in this patent application was supported by EPA grant R824726-01. The United States Government may have certain rights in this invention.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The technology of genetic engineering allows the transfer of genetic traits between species and permits, in particular, the transfer of enzymes from one species to others. These techniques have first reached commercialization in connection with high-value added products such as pharmaceuticals. The techniques of genetic engineering are equally applicable and cost effective when applied to genes and enzymes which can be used to make basic chemical feedstocks.

A metabolic pathway of interest exists in the bacteria *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, which has the ability to biologically produce 3 - hydroxypropionaldehyde from glycerol. Native microorganisms have the ability to produce 1,3 - propanediol from glycerol as well. Commercial interests are exploring the production of 1,3 - propanediol from glycerol or glucose, in recombinant organisms which have been engineered to express the enzymes necessary for 1,3 - propanediol production from other organisms.

3 - hydroxypropionic acid CAS registry Number [503-66-2] (abbreviated as 3-25 HP) is a three carbon non-chiral organic molecule. The IUPAC nomenclature name for

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this molecule is propionic acid 3 - hydroxy. It is also known as 3 - hydroxypropionate, β - hydroxypropionic acid, β - hydroxypropionic acid, β - hydroxypropionic acid, 3 - hydroxypropionic acid, β - hydroxypropionic acid, 3 - hydroxypropanoate, hydracrylic acid, ethylene lactic acid, β -lactic acid and 2 - deoxyglyceric acid. Applications of 3-HP include the manufacture of absorbable prosthetic devices and surgical sutures, incorporation into beta-lactams, production of acrylic acid, formation of trifluromethylated alcohols or diols, polyhydroxyalkonates, and co-polymers with lactic acid. 3-HP for commercial use is now commonly produced by organic chemical syntheses. The 3-HP produced and sold by these methods is relatively expensive, and it would be cost prohibitive to use it for the production of monomers for polymer production. As discussed below, some organisms are known to produce 3-HP. However, there is not yet available a catalog of genes from these organisms and thus the ability to synthesize 3-HP using the enzymes natively responsible for the synthesis of that molecule in the native hosts which produce it does not now exist.

In addition to its commercial utility, 3-HP it is found in a number of biological processes, notably including many naturally occurring bio-polymers. Poly(3 - hydroxybutyrate) (PHB) is the most abundant member of the microbial polyesters which contain hydroxy monomers termed polyhydroxyalkonates (PHAs). PHB has utility as a biodegradable thermoplastic material and the material was first produced industrially in 1982.

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The majority of published research on PHA's that contain 3-HP has concentrated on two bacterial sources: Ralstonia eutropha ("Alcaligenes eutrophus") and Pseudomonas oleovorans. Both Ralstonia eutropha and Pseudomonas oleovorans are able to grow on a nitrogen free media containing 3 - hydroxy - propionic acid, 1,5 - pentanediol or 1,7 - heptanediol. When 3-HP is the major hydroxy-acid added to the growth media, poly(3 - hydroxybutyrate - co - 3 - hydroxypropionic acid) is formed containing 7 mol % 3 - hydroxypropionic acid. These cells also store 3 mol %, 3 - hydroxypropionic acid poly(3 - butyrate - co - 3 - hydroxypropionic acid).

Recombinant systems have been used to create PHAs. An *E. coli* strain and engineered to express PHA synthase from either *Ralstonia eutropha* or *Zoolgoea ramigera* produced poly(3 - hydroxypropionic acid) when feed 1,3 - propanediol.

Skraly, F. A. "Polyhydroxyalkanoates Produced by Recombinant E. coli." Poster at Engineering Foundation Conference: Metabolic Engineering II, 1998. An E. coli strain that expressed PHA synthase (MBX820), when provided with the genes encoding glycerol dehydratase and 1,3 - propanediol dehydratase from K. pneumonia, and 4 - hydroxybutyral- CoA transferase from Clostridium kluyveri, synthesized PHB from glucose.

Glycerol dehydratase, found in the bacterial pathway for the conversion of glycerol to 1,3 - propanediol, catalyzes the conversion of glycerol to 3 - hydroxypropionaldehyde and water. This enzyme has been found in a number of bacteria including strains of Citrobacter, Klebsiella, Lactobacillus, Entrobacter and Clostridium. In the 1,3 - propanediol pathway a second enzyme 1,3 - propanediol oxido-reductase (EC 1.1.202) reduces 3 - hydroxypropanaldehyde to 1,3 - propanediol in a NADH dependant reaction. The pathway for the conversion of glycerol to 1,3 - propanediol has been expressed in E. coli. Tong et al., Applied and Environmental Microbiology 57 (12) 3541-3546. The genes responsible for the production of 1,3 - propanediol were cloned from the dha regulon of Klebsiella pneumoniae. Glycerol is transported into the cell by the glycerol facilitator, and then converted into 3 - hydroxy - propionaldehyde by a coenzyme B₁₂- dependent dehydratase. E. coli lacks a native dha regulon, consequently E. coli cannot grow anaerobically on glycerol without an exogenous electron acceptor such as nitrate or fumarate.

Aldehyde dehydrogenases are enzymes that catalyze the oxidation of aldehydes to carboxylic acids. The genes encoding non-specific aldehyde dehydrogenases have been identified in a wide variety of organisms e.g.; ALDH2 from Homo sapiens, ALD4 from Saccharomyces cerevisiae, and from E. coli both aldA and aldB, to name a few. These enzymes are classified by co-factor usage, most require either AND+, or NADP+ and some will use either co-factor. The genes singled out for mention here are able to act on a number of different aldehydes and it likely that they may be able to oxidize 3 - hydroxy - propionaldehyde to 3 - hydroxypropionic acid.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is intended to permit the creation of a recombinant microbial host which is capable of synthesizing 3-HP from a starting material of glycerol or glucose. The glycerol or glucose is converted to 3 -

5 hydroxypropionicaldehyde (abbreviated as 3-HPA) which is then converted to 3-HP. This process requires the so-called *dhaB* gene from *Klebsiella pneumoniae* which encodes the enzyme glycerol dehydratase any one of four different aldehyde dehydrogenase genes to convert 3-HPA to 3-HP. The four aldehyde dehydrogenase genes used were *aldA* from the bacterium *E. coli*, *ALDH2* from humans, *ALD4* from the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and *aldB* from *E. coli*. The yeast gene appeared to give the best results.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a genetic construct which encodes glycerol dehydratase and aldehyde dehydrogenase enzymes necessary for the production of 3 - hydroxypropionic acid from glycerol.

It is also an object of the present invention to provide a method for the production of 3 - hydroxypropionic acid from glycerol.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiment thereof and from the claims.

20 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS Not applicable.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

It is disclosed here that it is possible to introduce into a bacterial host genes encoding two enzymes and thus confer upon that host the ability to produce 3-HP from glycerol. The two necessary enzymes are glycerol dehydratase and aldehyde dehydrogenase. It is here reported that the two enzymes are both necessary and sufficient to enable a strain of a suitable host, such as a competent *E. coli* strain, to make 3-HP from glycerol. An exemplary gene encoding a glycerol dehydratase is known, the *dhaB* gene from *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, sequenced and rendered convenient to use.

30 Several exemplary aldehyde dehydrogenases are known, and their sequences are

presented here. From this information, it becomes practical to confer upon a bacterial host the ability to convert glycerol into 3-HP in a commercially reasonable manner.

It was not apparent before the completion of the work described here that these two diverse enzymes could be produced in a common host to produce the ability to

5 make 3-HP. There are many known aldehyde dehydrogenase enzymes and genes, and the enzymes are known to have varying substrate specificities and efficiencies. There was not evidence, prior to the work described here, that the aldehyde dehydrogenase enzyme would work on the 3-hydroxypropionicaldehyde (3-HPA) substrate to create 3-HP. Without that knowledge, there was no data from which to predict the effectiveness of the 3-HP production studies described below. An additional uncertainty arises from the fact that the intermediate aldehyde, 3-HPA, is toxic to many bacterial host and thus the survival of the host is dependent upon the relative rates of enzymatic production and conversion of the aldehyde intermediate to non-toxic 3-HP.

A difficulty in the realization of the production of 3-HP desired here is that

ribosome binding sites from non-native hosts are often ineffectual and lead to poor
protein production and that many non-native promoters are often poorly transcribed and
a bar to high protein expression. However, the inventors also recognized that a nonnative promoter that is known to be very active and is inducible by the addition of a
small molecule unrelated to the pathway being expressed is often a very efficient way to

express and regulate the levels of enzymes expressed in hosts such as *E. coli*. To
achieve high levels of regulated gene expression plasmids were constructed which
placed the expression of all exogenous genes necessary for the production of 3 hydroxypropionic acid from glycerol under the regulation of the *trc* promoter. The *trc*promoter, is efficient, not native to *E. coli*, and inducible by the addition of IPTG.

The present specification describes a genetic construct for use in the production of 3 - hydroxypropionic acid from glycerol. The genetic construct includes exemplary DNA sequences coding for the expression of a glycerol dehydratase and a DNA sequence coding for aldehyde dehydrogenase. The set of exemplary sequences necessary for the expression of glycerol dehydratase is collectively referred to as "dhaB". The set of sequences necessary for the expression of aldehyde dehydrogenase includes any one of four different genes which proved efficacious. The individual

aldehyde dehydrogenase sequences referred to individually as *ALDH4*, *ALD2*, *aldA* and *aldB*.

Producing 3 - hydroxypropionic acid in a foreign host

In the work described below, the enzymes necessary for the production of 3 5 hydroxypropionic acid from glycerol in *E. coli* were expressed under the regulation of
the *trc* promoter, a non-native promoter inducible by the addition of IPTG. The
glycerol dehydratase was encoded by the *dhaB* gene from *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, the
aldehyde dehydrogenases used was any one of four different genes (*ALDH2* from *Homo*sapiens, *ALD4* from *S. cerevisiae*, aldB from *E. coli* or aldA from *E. coli*). Expression
of these genes coding for glycerol dehydratase and any one of the genes encoding an
aldehyde dehydrogenases was sufficient to enable the construct to produce 3-HP when
the fermentation media was supplemented with glycerol. In all of these constructs, the
dhaB gene was downstream from the gene encoding the aldehyde dehydrogenase used,
and expression of both genes was regulated by the *trc* promoter. This order, however, is
not required and the order of the gens on a construct and the use of multiple constructs is
possible.

In a minimal genetic construct made based on the data presented here, the only genetic elements present that would be necessary are the structural genes *dhaB* and an aldehyde dehydrogenase gene encoding a protein that efficiently catalyzes the oxidation of 3-hydroxypropionaldehyde to 3-hydroxypropionic acid, and non-native promoter sequences specifically selected to give the type of inducible control most appropriate for the context of the process in which the construct is to be used. Extraneous pieces of DNA, whether retained in the construct or added from other DNA sequences, would not necessarily be detrimental to effective 3-HP synthesis by the host organism, but would not be needed. Each sequence to be translated would necessarily be preceded by a ribosome binding site, functional in the selected host so that the messenger RNA(s) coding for the proteins of interest could be translated by ribosomes. Terminator sequences immediately downstream of each translated unit would also be necessary in some organisms, particularly in eukaryotes. The construct could be part of an autonomously replicating sequence, such as a plasmid or phage vector, or could be

integrated into the genome of the host.

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The structural genes and appropriate promoter(s) could be isolated by the use of restriction enzymes, by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), by chemical synthesis of the appropriate oligonucleotides, or by other methods apparent to those skilled in the art 5 or molecular biology. The promoter(s) would be derived from genomic DNA of other organism or from artificial genetic constructs containing promoters. Appropriate promoter fragments would be ligated into the construct upstream of the structural genes in any one of several possible arrangements.

The aldehyde dehydrogenase expressed would have: high specific activity 10 towards 3-hydroxypropionaldehyde; be very stable in the host it is expressed in; be readily over expressed in the selected host; not be inhibited by either the substrates necessary for the reaction or the products formed by the reaction; be fully active under the fermentation conditions most favorable for the production of 3 - hydroxypropionic acid and be able to use either NAD+ or NADP+.

One possible arrangement is the true operon, where one promoter is used to direct transcription in one direction of all necessary Open Reading Frames (ORFs). The entire message is then contained in one messenger RNA. The advantages of the operon are that it is relatively easy to construct, since only one promoter is needed; that is it is relatively simple to replace the promoter with another promoter if that would be 20 desirable later; and that it assures that the two genes are under the same regulation. The main disadvantage of the operon scheme is that the levels of the expression of the two genes cannot be varied independently. If it is found that the genes, for optimal 3 hydroxypropionic acid synthesis, should be expressed at different levels, the operon in most cases cannot be used to realize this.

Another possible arrangement is the multiple-promoter scheme. Two or more promoters, with the same or distinct regulatory behavior, could be used to direct transcription of the genes. For example, one promoter could be used to direct transcription of dhaB and one to direct transcription of the gene encoding the appropriate aldehyde dehydrogenases. Because the genes theoretically can be 30 transcribed and translated separately, a great number of combinations of multiple promoters is possible. Additionally, it would be most desirable to prevent the promoters from interfering with one another. This could be achieved either by placing two promoters into the construct such that they direct transcription in opposite directions, or by inserting transcriptional terminator sequences downstream of each separately transcribed unit. The main advantage of the multiple-promoter construct is that it permits independent regulation of as many distinct units as desired, which could be important. The disadvantages are that it would be more difficult to construct; more difficult to amend later; and more difficult to effectively regulate, since multiple changes in fermentation conditions would need to be introduced and might render the performance of the fermentation somewhat less predicable.

In any construct, the promoter sequence(s) used should be functional in the selected host organism and preferably provide sufficient transcription of the genes comprising the glycerol to 3 - hydroxypropionic acid pathway to enable the construct to be adequately active in that host. The promoter sequence(s) used would also effect regulation of transcription of the genes enabling the glycerol to 3-HP pathway to be adequately active under the fermentation conditions employed for 3-HP production, and preferably they would be inducible, such that expression of the genes could be modulated by the inclusion in, or exclusion from, the fermentation of a certain agents or conditions.

A plausible example of the use of such a construct follows: one promoter, which induced by the addition of an inexpensive chemical (the inducer) to the medium, could control transcription of both the dhaB gene and the gene encoding the appropriate aldehyde dehydrogenase. The cells would be permitted to grow in the absence of the inducer until they accumulated to a predetermined level. The inducer would then be added to the fermentation and nutritional changes commensurate with the altered metabolism would be made to the medium as well. The cells would then be permitted to utilize the substrate(s) provided for 3-HP production (and additional biomass production if desired). After the cells could no longer use substrate to produce 3-HP, the fermentation would be stopped and the 3-HP recovered.

Genetic Sequences

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To express glycerol dehydratase and a suitable aldehyde dehydrogenase, the two

enzymes necessary for the production of 3 - hydroxypropionic acid from glycerol, it is required that the DNA sequences containing the glycerol dehydratase and aldehyde dehydrogenase coding sequences be combined with at least a promoter sequence (preferably a non-native promoter although some native promoter activity may be present). An exemplary method of construction is described in the example below. To ensure that the present specification is enabling, the full sequences of the coding regions of genes for these enzymes is presented here.

Sequences 1, 3, 5 and 7 present different native genomic sequences for genes encoding aldehyde dehydrogenases.

SEQ ID NO:1 contains the full native DNA sequence encoding the *ALD4* enzyme from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The amino acid sequence of the protein is presented as SEQ ID NO:2.

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SEQ ID NO:3 includes the DNA sequence for the human *ALDH2* gene, again including the full protein coding region. The amino acid sequence for this human alcohol dehydrogenase is presented in SEQ ID NO:4.

SEQ ID NO:5 and 7 respectively present the full coding sequences from the E. coli genes aldA and aldB, both of which encode alcohol dehydrogenases. The amino acid sequences for the proteins encoded by the genes are presented in SEQ ID NO: 6 and 8 respectively.

SEQ ID NO:9 contains the native genomic DNA sequence for the *dhaB* gene from the *dha* regulon of *Klebisiella pneumoniae*. The coding sequences for this complex regulon produces five polypeptides, which are presented as SEQ ID NOS:10 through 13, which together provide the activity of the glycerol dehydratase enzyme.

Each of these coding sequences can be used to make genetic constructs for the expression of the appropriate enzymes in a heterologous hosts. In making genetic constructs for expression of the genes in such hosts, it is contemplated that heterologous promoters will be joined to the coding sequences for the enzymes, but all that it required is that the promoters be effective for the hosts in which the genes are to be expressed. It is also contemplated and envisioned that significant variations in DNA sequence are possible from the native DNA coding sequences presented here. As is well known in the art, due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, many different DNA sequences can

encode the expression of the same protein. So, when this document uses language specifying a DNA sequence encoding a protein, it is intended to encompass any DNA sequence which can be used to express that protein even if different from the genomic sequences presented here. It is also contemplated that conservative changes in the

5 amino acid sequences of the proteins specified here can be made without departing from the present invention. In particular, deletions, additions and substitutions of one or more amino acids in a protein sequence can almost always be made without changing protein functionality. When the name of a protein is sued here, it is intended to be equally applicable to both such minor changes in amino acid sequence and to allelic variations in native protein sequence as occurs within the species named as well as other closely related species.

It is possible that many of the above DNA sequences could be truncated and still express a protein that has the same enzymatic properties. One skilled in the art of molecular biology would appreciate that minor deletions, additions and mutations may not change the attributes of the designated base pair sequences; many of the nucleotide of the designated base pair sequences are probably not essential for their unique function. To determine whether or not an altered sequence or sequences has sufficient homology with the designated base pairs to function identically, one would simply create the candidate mutation, deletion or alteration and create a gene construct including the altered sequence together with promoter and termination sequences. This gene construct could be tested as, described below, for the production of 3-HP from glycerol.

Certain DNA primers were used to isolate or clone the genomic DNA sequences used in the experiments described below. While the sequence information presented here is sufficient to enable the construction of expression plasmids incorporating the genes identified here, in order to redundantly enable the use of these genes, primers which may be used to isolated the genes from their native hosts are described below.

The primers aldA_L (SEQ ID NO:14), and alcA_R (SEQ ID NO:15), were used to amplify the 1513 bp aldA fragment from genomic E. coli DNA (strain MG1655, a gift from the Genetic Stock Center, New Haven, CT). The gel purified PCR fragment containing a DNA sequence coding for the expression of aldehyde dehydrogenase was

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inserted into Ncol-Xhol site of pSE380 (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA) to give pPFS3. The resulting plasmid contained aldA under the control of the trc promoter. This construct allowed for high-level expression of the aldA gene from E. coli under regulation of the trc promoter. Unless indicated otherwise all molecular biology and plasmid 5 constructions were done in E. coli AG1 (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA).

The primers ald BL (SEQ ID NO:20) and ald BR (SEQ ID NO:21), were used to amplify the 1574 bp aldB fragment from genomic E. coli DNA (strain MG1655). The resulting PCR converted the TGA stop codon into a TAA stop codon. The gelpurified PCR fragment containing the DNA sequence sufficiently coding for the 10 expression of aldehyde dehydrogenase was inserted into the KpnI-SacI site of pSE380 to give pPFS12.

The primers ALD4 L (SEQ ID NO: 16), and ALD4 R (SEQ ID NO: 17), were used to amplify the 1595 bp ALD4 fragment from S. cerevisiae DNA (strain YPH500). The gel-purified fragment containing a DNA sequence coding for the expression of 15 aldehyde dehydrogenase was inserted into the KpnI-SacI site of pPFS3 to give pPFS8. The resulting plasmid contained mature ALD4 under control of the trc promoter.

The primers ALDH2_L (SEQ ID NO:18), and ALDH2_R (SEQ ID NO:19), were used to amplify the 1541 bp ALDH2 fragment from pT7-7::ALDH2, a gift from H. Weiner (Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN). The gel purified PCR fragment 20 containing a DNA sequence sufficiently homologous to base pairs 22 to 1524, inclusive of SEO ID NO: 3 so as to code for the expression of aldehyde dehydrogenase was inserted in to the KpnI-SacI site of pSE380 to give pPFS7. This sequence was moved from pPFS7 into the KpnI-SacI site of pPFS3 to give pPFS9. The resulting plasmid contained mature ALDH2 under the control of the trc promoter.

The primers pTRC_L (SEQ ID NO:22), and pTRC_R)SEQ ID NO:23), were used to amplify the 540 bp fragment from pSE380. The gel purified PCR fragment was inserted into the HpaI-KpnI site of pPFS3 to give pPFS13. The resulting plasmid deleted the "native" ribosome binding site of pSE380 and a NcoI site (which contained an extraneous ATG start codon upstream of the cloned genes). The KpnI-SacI 30 fragments of pPFS8, pPFS9, and pPSF12 were inserted into the KpnI-SacI site of pPFS13 to give pPFS14, pPFS15, and pPFS16, respectively.

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Assay for production of 3-HP

The efficacy of changes made as contemplated herein can be checked by the following tests. To test for the production of 3-HP, fermentation products can be quantified with a Waters Alliance Integrity HPLC system (Milford, MA) equipped with a refractive index detector, a photodiode array detector, and an Aminex HPX-87H (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA) organic acids column. The mobile phase should be 0.01 N sulfuric acid solution (pH 2.0) at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. The column temperature should be set to 40°C. Compounds can be identified by determining if they co-elute with authentic standards. Prior to analysis, all samples should be filtered through 0.45 μM pore size membrane. (Gelman Sciences, Ann Arbor, MI). The fractions of the fermentation products collected using HPLC should be analyzed on a Varian Star 3400 CX, gas - chromatograph coupled to a Varian Saturn 3 mass spectrometer (GC-MS) (Walnut Creek, CA).

Assay for enzyme activity.

Aldehyde dehydrogenase activity can be determined by measuring the reduction of β-NAD⁺ at 25 °C with 3 - hydroxypropionaldehyde as a substrate. All buffers should contain 1 mM ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), 0.1 mM Pefabloc SC (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN) and 1 mM Tris (carboxyethyl) phosphine hydrochloride (TCEP-HCL). For ALD4, the solution should contain 100 mM Tris HCL Buffer (pH 8.0), 100 mM KCl. For ALDH2 the solution should contained 100 mM sodium pyrophosphate (pH 9.0). For AldA and AldB, the solution should contain 20 mM sodium glycine (pH 9.5). A total of 3.0 mL of buffer should be added to quartz cuvettes and allowed to equilibrate to assay temperature. From 5 to 20 μL of cell extract should be added and background activity recorded after the addition of β-NAD⁺ to a final concentration of 0.67 mM. The reaction should be started by the addition of substrate (either acetaldehyde, propionaldehyde, or 3 - hydroxypropionaldehyde) to a final concentration of 2 mM. Assay mixtures should be stirred with micro-stirrers during the assays.

For aldehyde dehydrogenase activity assays, one unit is defined as the reduction

of $1.0 \,\mu\text{M}$ of β -AND⁺ per minute at 25° C. These reactions can be monitored by following the change in absorbence at $340 \,\text{nm}$ (A₃₄₀) at 25° C on a Varain Carry-1 Bio spectrophotometer (Sugar Land, TX). Total protein concentrations in the cell extracts can be determined using the Bradford assay method (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA) with bovine serum albumin as the standard.

EXAMPLES

Plasmid constructions.

Klebsiella pneumoniae expresses glycerol dehydratase, an enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of glycerol to 3 - hydroxypropionaldehyde, (dhaB) and 1,3 propanediol oxidoreductase an enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of 3 - hydroxypropionaldehyde to 1,3 - propanediol respectively (the gene product from dhaT). A plasmid encoding these two genes was created and expressed in E. coli (plasmid pTC53). The dhaT gene was deleted from pTC53 to create pMH34. The resulting plasmid still contained the DNA sequence complementary to base pairs 330 to
2153 inclusion of SEQ ID NO: 9, the complement of base pairs 2166 to 2591, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO: 9, and the complement of base pairs 3191 to 4858, inclusive, of SEQ ID NO: 9, so as to code for the expression of glycerol dehydratase. The fragment of DNA encoding these sequences was excised from pMH34 by cutting it with Sal1-Xba1, and the resulting fragment was gel purified (the purified fragment was gift from M. Hoffman of the University of Wisconsin - Madison). This DNA fragment was inserted into the Sal1-Xba1 site of pPFS13 to give pPFS17.

The resulting plasmid contained both the *aldA* and *dhaB* genes under the control of the *trc* promoter. Similarity, the gel-purified *SalI-XbaI* fragment from pMH34 was inserted into the *SalI-XbaI* sites of pPFS14, pPFS15, and pPFS16 to give pPFS18, pPFS19, and pPFS20, respectively. These plasmids contained *ALD4*, *ALDH2*, and *aldB*, respectively, as well as *dhaB* under the control of the *trc* promoter; in all of the constructs the *dhaB* gene were downstream of the gene encoding the aldehyde dehydrogenase.

Expression in E. coli.

The efficacy of *E. coli* as a platform for the production of 3-HP from growth on glucose has been examined using a mathematical model developed for this purpose. The model was executed in two different ways assuming the conversion of one mole of glucose under either anaerobic or aerobic conditions either directly to 3-HP or to the production of 3-HP and ATP. The optimum yield under anaerobic conditions is 1 mole of 3-HP and 1 mole of lactate. The more realistic yield under anaerobic conditions is 0.5 moles of 3-HP, 1.5 moles of lactate and 1 mole of ATP. The optimum yield under aerobic conditions is 1.9 moles of 3-HP and 0.3 moles of CO₂. The realistic yield under aerobic conditions is 1.85 moles of 3-HP, 0.35 moles of CO₂ and 1 mole of ATP.

The effect of 3-HP concentration on *E. coli* strain MG1655 growth was measured. Cells were grown on standard media with and without the addition of up to 80g/L of 3-HP. The best fit of these data demonstrated that 3-HP was only 1.4 times as inhibitory as lactic acid on the growth of *E. coli*. It is possible to economically produce lactic acid using *E. coli*, since 3-HP is only 1.4 times more inhibitory than lactic acid, it should be possible to use *E. coli* as a host for the commercial production of 3-HP.

Media and growth conditions

The standard media contained the following per liter: 6 g Na₂HPO₄, 3 g KH₂PO₄, 1 g NH₄Cl, 0.5 g NaCl, 3 mg CaCl₂, 5 g yeast extract (Difco Laboratories, Detroit, MI) and 2 mM MgSO₄. When necessary to retain plasmids ampicillin (100 mg/mL) was added to the media. Isopropyl-β-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) was added in varying amounts to induce gene expression. All fermentations were carried out in an incubator-shaker at 37 C and 200 rpm. Anaerobic fermentations were carried out in 500-mL anaerobic flasks with 300 mL of working volume. Inocula for fermentations were grown overnight in Luria-Bertani medium supplemented with ampicillin is necessary. The 300-mL fermentations were inoculated with 1.5 mL of the overnight culture. For enzyme assays, fermentations were incubated for 24 hours.

Over expression of aldehyde dehydrogenase in E. coli.

Cells were harvested by centrifugation at 3000 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C with a

Beckman (Fullerton, CA) model J2-21 centrifuge. Cell pellets were washed twice in 100 mM potassium phosphate buffer at pH 7.2 and re-suspended in appropriate assay resuspension buffer equal to 5 x of the volume of the wet cell mass. The cells were homogenized using a French pressure cell. The homogenate was centrifuged at 40000 x g for 30 minutes. The supernatant was dialyzed against the appropriate resuspension buffer using 10000 molecular weight cut-off pleated dialysis tubing (Pierce, Rockford, IL) at 4°C. Dialysis buffer was changed after 2 hours, and 4 hours, and dialysis was stopped after being allowed to proceed overnight.

E. coli AG1 cells transfected with the plasmids constructed to express the aldA, 10 ALD4, ALDH2, or aldB genes were grown in 500-mL anaerobic flasks. Twelve hours after the fermentations were inoculated IPTG was added to induce enzyme expression. The cells were allowed to grow for an additional 12 hours then harvested and lysed as discussed above. The soluble fraction of the lysate was assayed for aldehyde dehydrogenase activity using the substrate 3-hydroxypropionicaldehyde in the buffer appropriate for the particular enzyme expressed. The plasmid, aldehyde dehydrogenase expressed and specific activity measured (U/mg of protein) were as follows: pPFS13, aldA, 0.2; pPFS14, ALD4, 0.5, pPFS15, ALDH2, 0.3; and pPFS16, aldB. 0.1. The control, E. coli strain AG1 harboring plasmid pSE380, encoded no exogenous aldehyde dehydrogenase activity and it had no detectable activity with 3-HP as substrate. It is clear from the activity assays that all four aldehyde dehydrogenases were expressed in E. coli. The aldehyde dehydrogenase cloned from Saccharomyces cerevisiae (ADH4) had the highest activity when 3-hydroxypropionaldehyde was used as the substrate (0.5 units/mg of protein).

E. coli cells transformed with plasmids expressing: aldehyde dehydrogenase;
25 both aldehyde dehydrogenase and glycerol dehydratase, or neither gene; were grown and assayed for their ability to produce 3-HP from glycerol. The cells were grown on standard media supplemented with 6 μM of Coenzyme B₁₂, under anaerobic conditions in the absence of light (to protect the integrity of the Coenzyme B₁₂ necessary for DhaB activity). After 12 hours, IPTG was added to induce expression of the genes under the
30 trc promoter at the same time 5g/L of glycerol was added. After 12 more hours of anaerobic fermentation the fermentation broth was assayed for 3 - HP by HPLC and GC,

the plasmid, aldehyde dehydrogenase gene expressed and g/L of 3- HP measured were as follows: pSF17, aldA, 0.031; pPSF18 ALD4, 0.173; and pPSF19, ALDH2, 0.061. Cells expressing dhaB but no exogenous aldehyde dehydrogenase genes (plasmid pMH34) produced 0.015 g/L of 3 - HP. Cells expressing aldA, ALD4, ALDH2 or aldB 5 but not dhaB (plasmids pPFS13, pPFS14, pPFS15, pPFS16, respectively) all produced less then 0.005 g/L of 3-HP when the media the cells were growing in was supplemented with 2.5g/L of 3-hydroxypropionaldehyde.

Other Hosts and Promoters

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Applications of the 3 - hydroxypropionic acid pathway such as the genetic 10 constructs of the present invention can easily be expressed in other organisms. The required genes would need to be placed under control of an appropriate promoter or promoters. Some organism such as yeasts may require transcription terminators to be placed after each transcribed unit. The knowledge of the present intention makes such amendments possible. Such a genetic construct would need to be part of a vector that 15 could either replicate in the new host or integrate into the chromosome of the new host. Many such vectors are commercially available for expression in gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria, yeast, mammalian cells, insect cell, plant, etc. For example, to express the 3-hydroxypropionic acid pathway in Rhodobacter capsulatus, one could obtain vector pNH2 from the American Type Culture Collection (ATTC). This is a 20 shuttle vector for use in R. capsulatus and E. coli. Organisms such as Saccharomyces cerevisiae which can convert glucose to glycerol could be used as a host, such a construct would enable the production of 3 - HP directly from glucose. Additionally, other substrates such as xylan could also be used given the selection of an appropriate host.

Stochiometric analysis shows that best stochiometric yield of 3-HP production in E. coli calculated on the basis of glucose consumed is obtained under aerobic conditions. Under aerobic condition CO2 is the only carbon-containing co-product, in particular the generation of lactic acid which occurs under anaerobic conditions is avoided. Production of 3-HP under these conditions could result in a more economical 30 recovery of 3-HP from the fermentation broth.

Alternatively, the *dhaB* gene and a gene encoding the appropriate aldehyde dehydrogenase could be cloned into the multiple cloning site of this vector in *E. coli* to facilitate construction, and then transformed into *R. capsulatus*. The *R. capsulatus* nifH promoter, provided on the plasmid, could be used to direct the transcription in *R. capsulatus* of the genes placed into pNF2 in series with one promoter, or with two copies of the nifH promoter. Expression of the genes in other organisms would require a procedure analogous to that presented here.

Alternative Aldehyde Dehydrogenases and Glycerol Dehydratases

Applications of the pathway for the production of 3-hydroxypropionic acid from glycerol can be made using other suitable aldehyde dehydrogenases. To be functional in this pathway an aldehyde dehydrogenase needs to be stable, readily expressed in the host of choice and have high enough activity towards 3-hydroxypropionaldehyde to enable it to make 3-HP. The knowledge of the present invention makes such amendments possible. A program of directed evolution could be undertaken to select for suitable aldehyde dehydrogenases or they could be recovered from native sources, the genes encoding these enzymes in conjunction with a gene encoding an appropriate glycerol dehydratase activity, would then be made part of any of the constructs envisioned here to produce 3 - hydroxypropionic acid from glycerol.

A similar program of enzyme improvement including for example directed
20 evolution could be carried out using the *dhaB* gene from *Klebsiella pneumoniae* as a
starting point to obtain other variants of glycerol dehydratase that are superior in
efficiency and stability to the form used in this invention. Alternatively, enzymes which
catalyzes the same reaction may be isolated from others organisms and used in place of
the *Klebsiella pneumoniae* glycerol dehydratase. Such enzymes may be especially
25 useful in alternative hosts wherein they may be more readily expressed, be more stable
and more efficient under the fermentation conditions best suited to the growth of the
construct and the production and recovery of 3-HP.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

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- Arg Lys Met Ala Pro Ala Leu Leu Thr Gly Asn Thr Ile Val Ile Lys
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	Leu	Asp	Met	Val	Leu	Lys	Cys	Leu	Arg	Tyr	Tyr	Ala	Gly	Trp	Ala	Asp	
			125					130					135				
	aag	tac	cac	ggg	aaa	acc	atc	ccc	att	gac	gga	gac	ttc	ttc	agc	tac	483
5	Lys	Tyr	His	Gly	Lys	Thr	Ile	Pro	Ile	Asp	Gly	Asp	Phe	Phe	Ser	Tyr	
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	aca	cgc	cat	gaa	cct	gtg	3 33	gtg	tgc	ggg	cag	atc	att	ccg	tgg	aat	531
	Thr	Arg	His	Glu	Pro	Val	Gly	Val	Сув	Gly	Gln	Ile	Ile	Pro	Trp	Asn	
	155					160					165					170	
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	Phe	Pro	Leu	Leu		Gln	Ala	Trp	Lys	Leu	Gly	Pro	Ala	Leu	Ala	Thr	
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15	GLY	Asn	Val		Val	Met	гла	Val		GIu	Gln	Thr	Pro		Thr	Ala	
13				190					195					200			
	ata	+ = +	ata	aaa	220	ata	ata	224	~~	aat	ggc		~~~	aat	~~+	~+~	675
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	200	- 7 -	205		7.011	200		210	01u	ALG	Gry	rne	215	110	GIY	Val	
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	qtc	aac	att	ata	cct	qqa	ttt	qqc	ccc	acq	gct	aaa	acc	acc	att	acc	723
20											Ala						
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	tcc	cat	gag	gat	gtg	gac	aaa	gtg	gca	ttc	aca	ggc	tcc	act	gag	att	771
	Ser	His	Glu	Asp	Val	Asp	Lys	Val	Ala	Phe	Thr	Gly	Ser	Thr	Glu	Ile	
	235					240					245					250	
25	ggc	cgc	gta	atc	cag	gtt	gct	gct	aaa	agc	agc	aac	ctc	aag	aga	gtg	819
	Gly	Arg	Val	Ile	Gln	Val	Ala	Ala	Gly	Ser	Ser	Asn	Leu	Lys	Arg	Val	
					255					260					265		

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	acc	ttg	gag	ctg	ggg	aaa	aag	agc	ccc	aac	atc	atc	atg	tca	gat	gcc	867
	Thr	Leu	Glu	Leu	Gly	Gly	Lys	Ser	Pro	Asn	Ile	Ile	Met	Ser	Asp	Ala	
				270					275					280			
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5	Asp	Met	Asp	Trp	Ala	Val	Glu	Gln	Ala	His	Phe	Ala	Leu	Phe	Phe	Asn	
			285					290					295				
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	Gln	Gly	Gln	Cys	Cys	Сув	Ala	Gly	Ser	Arg	Thr	Phe	Val	Gln	Glu	Asp	
		300					305					310					
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	Ile	Tyr	Asp	Glu	Phe	Val	Val	Arg	Ser	Val	Ala	Arg	Ala	Lys	Ser	Arg	
	315					320					325					330	
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						Phe											
15					335					340			_		345		
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	Asp	Glu	Thr	Gln	Phe	Lys	Lys	Ile	Leu	Gly	Tyr	Ile	Asn	Thr	Gly	Lys	
				350					355	_				360	_		
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20						Leu											
			365		-			- 370	-	-	-		375		-	_	
	aat	tac	ttc	atc	caq	ccc	act	ata	ttt	qqa	gat	ata	caq	qat	aac	atq	1203
					_	Pro					-		_	_		_	
		380					385			2		390			3		
25	acc	atc	acc	aan	gag	gag	atc	tta	aaa	CC3	ata	ato	Car	atc	cta	aag	1251
						Glu											1231
		116	мта	пув	GIU		116	FIIE	GTA	FLO		MEC	GTII	116	neu	_	
	395					400					405					410	

percus coresers

	ttc	aag	acc	ata	gag	gag	gtt	gtt	aaa	aga	gcc	aac	aat	tcc	acg	tac	1299
	Phe	Lys	Thr	Ile	Glu	Glu	Val	Val	Gly	Arg	Ala	Asn	Asn	Ser	Thr	Tyr	
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5	Gly	Leu	Ala	Ala	Ala	Val	Phe	Thr	Lys	Asp	Leu	Asp	Lys	Ala	Asn	Tyr	
				430					435					440			
	ctg	tcc	cag	gcc	ctc	cag	gcg	ggc	act	gtg	tgg	gtc	aac	tgc	tat	gat	1395
	Leu	Ser	Gln	Ala	Leu	Gln	Ala	Gly	Thr	Val	Trp	Val	Asn	Сув	Tyr	Asp	
			445					450					455				
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			Gly														
		460	,				465					470			-		
	aac	caa	gag	tta	ggc	gag	tac	aaa	cta	caq	gca	tac	act	σaa	ata	aaa	1491
			Glu	_		-											
15	475	9	O_u	204	U	480	-1-	U -1			485	-1-				490	
10	1,3					100											
	act	ata	aca	atc	222	ata	cct	сас	ааст	aac	tcat	aaga	ar t	cgaa	ttcc	rc	1541
			Thr										-3-			,-	
		vul		142	495				-7-	500							
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			omo s	i	-na												
	(21.) / N	31110 2	sapı	2113												
	-404	0> 4															
			Ala	π1 ~	~ ות	The	G1 ~	አገጐ	Val	D~c	λ Ι	Dro	λar	Gl n	Gln	Pro	
25		ser	ATG	AId		Inr	GIII	wrd	val		AId	FIO	TOIL	3111	15	110	
25	1				5					10					13		
	~7		D 1: -	~	3	43 -	- 1.	DI: -	77 -	70	n	~1. -	M	17 2 ~	7 ~~	חות	
	GIU	vaı	Phe		ASN	GIN	тте	rne		ASN	ASII	GIU	пр	30	wab	wra	
				20					25					411			

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Val	Ser	Arg	Lys	Thr	Phe	Pro	Thr	Val	Asn	Pro	Ser	Thr	Gly	Glu	Val	
		35					40					45				
Tla	Cva	Gln	Va 1	הות	<i>α</i> 1	a 1	B ~~~	T	03	3	••- •	_	_		_	

- Ile Cys Gln Val Ala Glu Gly Asp Lys Glu Asp Val Asp Lys Ala Arg
 50 55 60
- 5 Glu Gly Arg Pro Gly Ala Phe Gln Leu Gly Ser Pro Trp Arg Arg Met
 65 70 75 80
 - Asp Ala Ser His Ser Gly Arg Leu Leu Asn Arg Leu Ala Asp Leu Ile 85 90 95
- Glu Arg Asp Arg Thr Tyr Leu Ala Ala Leu Glu Thr Leu Asp Asn Gly
 10 100 105 110
 - Lys Pro Tyr Val Ile Ser Tyr Leu Val Asp Leu Asp Met Val Leu Lys
 115 120 125
 - Cys Leu Arg Tyr Tyr Ala Gly Trp Ala Asp Lys Tyr His Gly Lys Thr 130 135 140
- 15 Ile Pro Ile Asp Gly Asp Phe Phe Ser Tyr Thr Arg His Glu Pro Val 145 150 155 160
 - Gly Val Cys Gly Gln Ile Ile Pro Trp Asn Phe Pro Leu Leu Met Gln 165 170 175
- Ala Trp Lys Leu Gly Pro Ala Leu Ala Thr Gly Asn Val Val Met 20 180 185 190
 - Lys Val Ala Glu Gln Thr Pro Leu Thr Ala Leu Tyr Val Ala Asn Leu 195 200 205
 - Ile Lys Glu Ala Gly Phe Pro Pro Gly Val Val Asn Ile Val Pro Gly 210 215 220

COSSOZSILOSICE PCT/US OC/ESE/E

	Phe	Gly	Pro	Thr	Ala	Gly	Ala	Ala	Ile	Ala	Ser	His	Glu	Asp	Val	Asp
	225					230					235					240
	Lys	Val	Ala	Phe	Thr 245	Gly	Ser	Thr	Glu	Ile 250	Gly	Arg	Val	Ile	Gln 255	Val
5	Ala	Ala	Gly	Ser 260	Ser	Asn	Leu	Lys	Arg 265	Val	Thr	Leu	Glu	Leu 270	Gly	Gly
	Lys	Ser	Pro 275	Asn	Ile	Ile	Met	Ser 280	Asp	Ala	Asp	Met	Авр 285	Trp	Ala	Val
10	Glu	Gln 290	Ala	His	Phe	Ala	Leu 295	Phe	Phe	Asn	Gln	Gly 300	Gln	Сув	Сув	Сув
	Ala 305	Gly	Ser	Arg	Thr	Phe 310	Val	Gln	Glu	Asp	Ile 315	Tyr	Asp	Glu	Phe	Val 320
	Val	Arg	Ser	Val	Ala 325	Arg	Ala	Lys	Ser	Arg 330	Val	Val	Gly	Asn	Pro 335	Phe
15	Asp	Ser	Lys	Thr 340	Glu	Gln	Gly	Pro	Gln 345	Val	Asp	Glu	Thr	Gln 350	Phe	Lys
	Lys	Ile	Leu 355	Gly	Tyr	Ile	Asn	Thr 360	Gly	Lys	Gln	Glu	Gly 365	Ala	Lys	Leu
20	Leu	Сув 370	Gly	Gly	Gly	Ile	Ala 375	Ala	Asp	Arg	Gly	Tyr 380	Phe	Ile	Gln	Pro
	Thr 385	Val	Phe	Gly	Asp	Val 390	Gln	Asp	Gly	Met	Thr 395	Ile	Ala	Lys	Glu	Glu 400
	Ile	Phe	Gly	Pro	Val 405	Met	Gln	Ile	Leu	Lys 410	Phe	Lys	Thr	Ile	Glu 415	Glu

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Val Val Gly Arg Ala Asn Asn Ser Thr Tyr Gly Leu Ala Ala Val 420 425 430 Phe Thr Lys Asp Leu Asp Lys Ala Asn Tyr Leu Ser Gln Ala Leu Gln 435 440 445 5 Ala Gly Thr Val Trp Val Asn Cys Tyr Asp Val Phe Gly Ala Gln Ser 450 455 460 Pro Phe Gly Gly Tyr Lys Met Ser Gly Ser Gly Arg Glu Leu Gly Glu 465 470 475 480 Tyr Gly Leu Gln Ala Tyr Thr Glu Val Lys Thr Val Thr Val Lys Val 10 485 490 Pro Gln Lys Asn 500 <210> 5 <211> 1512 15 <212> DNA <213> Escherichia coli <220> <221> CDS <222> (37)..(1473) 20 <400> 5 gctaccatgg cttaaccggt accaaggaga tatcat atg tca gta ccc gtt caa Met Ser Val Pro Val Gln 1 5

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25 His Pro Met Tyr Ile Asp Gly Gln Phe Val Thr Trp Arg Gly Asp Ala

10 15 20

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	rgg	att	gat	gtg	gta	aac	cct	gct	aca	gag	gct	gtc	att	tcc	cgc	ata	150
	Trp	Ile	Asp	Val	Val	Asn	Pro	Ala	Thr	Glu	Ala	Val	Ile	Ser	Arg	Ile	
			25					30					35				
	ccc	gat	ggt	cag	gcc	gag	gat	gcc	cgt	aag	gca	atc	gat	gca	gca	gaa	198
5	Pro	Asp	Gly	Gln	Ala	Glu	Asp	Ala	Arg	Lys	Ala	Ile	Asp	Ala	Ala	Glu	
		40					45					50					
	cgt	gca	caa	cca	gaa	tgg	gaa	gcg	ttg	cct	gct	att	gaa	cgc	gcc	agt	246
	Arg	Ala	Gln	Pro	Glu	Trp	Glu	Ala	Leu	Pro	Ala	Ile	Glu	Arg	Ala	Ser	
	55					60					65					70	
10	tgg	ttg	cgc	aaa	atc	tcc	gcc	ggg	atc	cgc	gaa	cgc	gcc	agt	gaa	atc	294
	Trp	Leu	Arg	Lys	Ile	Ser	Ala	Gly	Ile	Arg	Glu	Arg	Ala	Ser	Glu	Ile	
					75					80					85		
	agt	gcg	ctg	att	gtt	gaa	gaa	ggg	ggc	aag	atc	cag	cag	ctg	gct	gaa	342
	Ser	Ala	Leu	Ile	Val	Glu	Glu	Gly	Gly	Lys	Ile	Gln	Gln	Leu	Ala	Glu	
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	Val	Glu	Val	Ala	Phe	Thr	Ala	Asp	Tyr	Ile	Asp	Tyr	Met	Ala	Glu	Trp	
			105					110					115				
	gca	cgg	cgt	tac	gag	ggc	gag	att	att	caa	agc	gat	cgt	cca	gga	gaa	438
20	Ala	Arg	Arg	Tyr	Glu	Gly	Glu	Ile	Ile	Gln	Ser	Asp	Arg	Pro	Gly	Glu	
		120					125					130					
	aat	att	ctt	ttg	ttt	aaa	cgt	gcg	ctt	ggt	gtg	act	acc	ggc	att	ctg	486
	Asn	Ile	Leu	Leu	Phe	Lys	Arg	Ala	Leu	Gly	Val	Thr	Thr	Gly	Ile	Leu	
	135					140					145					150	
25	ccg	tgg	aac	ttc	ccg	ttc	ttc	ctc	att	gcc	cgc	aaa	atg	gct	ccc	gct	534
	Pro	Trp	Asn	Phe	Pro	Phe	Phe	Leu	Ile	Ala	Arg	Lys	Met	Ala	Pro	Ala	
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	ctt	ttg	acc	ggt	aat	acc	atc	gtc	att	aaa	cct	agt	gaa	ttt	acg	aca	582
	Leu	Leu	Thr	Gly	Asn	Thr	Ile	Val	Ile	Lys	Pro	Ser	Glu	Phe	Thr	Thr	
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	aac	aat	gcg	att	gca	ttc	gcc	aaa	atc	gtc	gat	gaa	ata	ggc	ctt	ccg	630
5	Asn	Asn	Ala	Ile	Ala	Phe	Ala	Lys	Ile	Val	Asp	Glu	Ile	Gly	Leu	Pro	
			185					190					195				
	cgc	ggc	gtg	ttt	aac	ctt	gta	ctg	ggg	cgt	ggt	gaa	acc	gtt	ggg	caa	678
	Arg	Gly	Val	Phe	Asn	Leu	Val	Leu	Gly	Arg	Gly	Glu	Thr	Val	Gly	Gln	
		200					205					210					
10	gaa	ctg	gcg	ggt	aac	cca	aag	gtc	gca	atg	gtc	agt	atg	aca	ggc	agc	726
			Ala														
	215					220					225					230	
	gtc	tct	gca	ggt	gag	aag	atc	atg	gcg	act	gcg	gcg	aaa	aac	atc	acc	774
	Val	Ser	Ala	Gly	Glu	Lys	Ile	Met	Ala	Thr	Ala	Ala	Lys	Asn	Ile	Thr	
15				-	235	•				240			-		245		
	aaa	gtg	tgt	ctg	gaa	ttg	ggg	ggt	aaa	qca	cca	gct	atc	gta	atg	gac	822
			Cys														
	-		-	250			-	_	255					260		-	
	gat	acc	gat	ctt	qaa	cta	qca	atc	aaa	qcc	atc	att	qat	tca	cac	atc	870
20	Asp	•	•		_	_	_	_		_		_	_		_	_	
			265					270	•				275		J		
	att	aat	agt	aaa	caa	ata	tat	aac	tat	qca	gaa	cat	att	tat	gta	cag	918
			Ser				_		_	_	_				_	_	
		280		1			285		-1-			290		-1-			
		200					~55										
25	222	aaa	att	tat	σa+	cac	ttc	atc	aat	caa	cta	aat	gaa	aca	ato	cad	966
			Ile														200
	295	C.L.Y	A A C	-1-	rap	300		- 41	******	****	305	~- <i>I</i>	4			310	
	23					330					505					J = 0	

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	gcg	gtt	caa	ttt	ggt	aac	ccc	gct	gaa	cgc	aac	gac	att	gcg	atg	aaa	1014
	Ala	Val	Gln	Phe	Gly	Asn	Pro	Ala	Glu	Arg	Asn	Asp	Ile	Ala	Met	Gly	
					315					320					325		
	ccg	ttg	att	aac	gcc	gcg	gcg	ctg	gaa	agg	gtc	gag	caa	aaa	gtg	gcg	1062
5	Pro	Leu	Ile	Asn	Ala	Ala	Ala	Leu	Glu	Arg	Val	Glu	Gln	Lys	Val	Ala	
				330					335					340			
	cgc	gca	gta	gaa	gaa	9 99	gcg	aga	gtg	gcg	ttc	ggt	ggc	aaa	gcg	gta	1110
	Arg	Ala	Val	Glu	Glu	Gly	Ala	Arg	Val	Ala	Phe	Gly	Gly	Lys	Ala	Val	
			345					350					355				
10	gag	ggg	aaa	gga	tat	tat	tat	ccg	ccg	aca	ttg	ctg	ctg	gat	gtt	cgc	1158
	Glu	Gly	Lys	Gly	Tyr	Tyr	Tyr	Pro	Pro	Thr	Leu	Leu	Leu	Asp	Val	Arg	
		360					365					370					
	cag	gaa	atg	tcg	att	atg	cat	gag	gaa	acc	ttt	ggc	ccg	gtg	ctg	cca	1206
	Gln	Glu	Met	Ser	Ile	Met	His	Glu	Glu	Thr	Phe	Gly	Pro	Val	Leu	Pro	
15	375					380					385	_				390	
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	gtt	gtc	gca	ttt	gac	acg	ctg	gaa	gat	gct	atc	tca	atg	gct	aat	gac	1254
													Met				
					395					400					405		
	agt.	gat	tac	ggc	ctg	acc	tca	tca	atc	tat	acc	caa	aat	ctg	aac	gtc	1302
20	Ser	Asp	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Thr	Ser	Ser	Ile	Tyr	Thr	Gln	Asn	Leu	Asn	Val	
				410					415					420			
	gcg	atg	aaa	gcc	att	aaa	aaa	ctg	aag	ttt	ggt	gaa	act	tac	atc	aac	1350
	Ala	Met	Lys	Ala	Ile	Lys	Gly	Leu	Lys	Phe	Gly	Glu	Thr	Tyr	Ile	Asn	
			425			_	_	430			_		435	_			
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	_	440					445		-			450	-	-		•	

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tcc ggt att ggc ggc gca gat ggt aaa cat ggc ttg cat gga tat ctg Ser Gly Ile Gly Gly Ala Asp Gly Lys His Gly Leu His Gly Tyr Leu 455 460 465 470 cag acc cag gtg gtt tat tta cag tct taagagctcg aattcccgtc 1493 5 Gln Thr Gln Val Val Tyr Leu Gln Ser 475 gacggctcta gactcgagcg 1513 <210> 6 <211> 479 10 <212> PRT <213> Escherichia coli <400> 6 Met Ser Val Pro Val Gln His Pro Met Tyr Ile Asp Gly Gln Phe Val 1 5 15 15 Thr Trp Arg Gly Asp Ala Trp Ile Asp Val Val Asn Pro Ala Thr Glu 20 25 Ala Val Ile Ser Arg Ile Pro Asp Gly Gln Ala Glu Asp Ala Arg Lys 35 40 45 Ala Ile Asp Ala Ala Glu Arg Ala Gln Pro Glu Trp Glu Ala Leu Pro 20 50 55 60 Ala Ile Glu Arg Ala Ser Trp Leu Arg Lys Ile Ser Ala Gly Ile Arg 65 70 75 Glu Arg Ala Ser Glu Ile Ser Ala Leu Ile Val Glu Glu Gly Lys 85 90 95 25 Ile Gln Gln Leu Ala Glu Val Glu Val Ala Phe Thr Ala Asp Tyr Ile 100 110 105

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	Asp	Tyr	Met	Ala	Glu	\mathtt{Trp}	Ala	Arg	Arg	Tyr	Glu	Gly	Glu	Ile	Ile	Glr
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	Ser	Asp	Arg	Pro	Gly	Glu	Asn	Ile	Leu	Leu	Phe	Lys	Arg	Ala	Leu	Gly
		130					135					140				
5	Val	Thr	Thr	Gly	Ile	Leu	Pro	Trp	Asn	Phe	Pro	Phe	Phe	Leu	Ile	Ala
	145					150					155					160
	Arg	Lys	Met	Ala	Pro	Ala	Leu	Leu	Thr	Gly	Asn	Thr	Ile	Val	Ile	Lys
					165					170					175	_
	Pro	Ser	Glu	Phe	Thr	Thr	Agn	Δan	Ala	Tle	Ala	Phe	αla	Laza	Tla	Val
10				180					185		1124	2110	ALU	190		val
	3	a 1	T] a	a 1	T	D	3	~ 1		5 1	-			_	<i>~</i> 3	_
	Asp	GIU	195	GIY	Leu	PIO	Arg	200	vai	Pne	Asn	Leu	205	Leu	GIY	Arg
									_							
	GIY	GIu 210	Thr	Val	GIA	Gln	Glu 215	Leu	Ala	Gly	Asn	Pro 220	Lys	Val	Ala	Met
15	Val 225	Ser	Met	Thr	Gly	Ser 230	Val	Ser	Ala	Gly	Glu 235	Lys	Ile	Met	Ala	Thr 240
	223					230					233					240
	Ala	Ala	Lys	Asn		Thr	Lys	Val	Сув		Glu	Leu	Gly	Gly	_	Ala
					245					250					255	
	Pro	Ala	Ile	Val	Met	Asp	Asp	Ala	Asp	Leu	Glu	Leu	Ala	Val	Lys	Ala
20				260					265					270		
	Ile	Val	Asp	Ser	Arg	Val	Ile	Asn	Ser	Gly	Gln	Val	Cys	Asn	Cys	Ala
			275		-			280					285			

300

Glu Arg Val Tyr Val Gln Lys Gly Ile Tyr Asp Gln Phe Val Asn Arg

295

290

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Leu	Gly	Glu	Ala	Met	Gln	Ala	Val	Gln	Phe	Gly	Asn	Pro	Ala	Glu	Arg
305					310					315					320

Asn Asp Ile Ala Met Gly Pro Leu Ile Asn Ala Ala Ala Leu Glu Arg 325 330 335

5 Val Glu Glu Lys Val Ala Arg Ala Val Glu Glu Gly Ala Arg Val Ala 340 345 350

Phe Gly Gly Lys Ala Val Glu Gly Lys Gly Tyr Tyr Pro Pro Thr 355 360 365

Leu Leu Asp Val Arg Gln Glu Met Ser Ile Met His Glu Glu Thr 10 370 375 380

Phe Gly Pro Val Leu Pro Val Val Ala Phe Asp Thr Leu Glu Asp Ala 385 390 395 400

Ile Ser Met Ala Asn Asp Ser Asp Tyr Gly Leu Thr Ser Ser Ile Tyr
405 410 415

15 Thr Gln Asn Leu Asn Val Ala Met Lys Ala Ile Lys Gly Leu Lys Phe
420 425 430

Gly Glu Thr Tyr Ile Asn Arg Glu Asn Phe Glu Ala Met Gln Gly Phe 435 440 445

His Ala Gly Trp Arg Lys Ser Gly Ile Gly Gly Ala Asp Gly Lys His 20 450 455 460

Gly Leu His Gly Tyr Leu Gln Thr Gln Val Val Tyr Leu Gln Ser 465 470 475

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Ile Gly Ile Gln Ser Lys Gly Thr Thr Val Ile His Gln Arg Asp Leu 50 55 60

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Leu Glu Thr Tyr Arg Gln Ile Gly Lys Asn Ala Ala Arg Tyr Ala Arg 85 90 95

Lys Glu Ser Pro Ser Pro Val Pro Val Val Asn Asp Gln Met Val Arg 100 105 110

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CRESTRAL TRACE PCT/US DO/23878

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Met Arg Leu Glu Ala Val Glu Ile Ala Arg Met Leu Val Asp Ile His 85 90 95

Val Ser Arg Glu Glu Ile Ile Ala Ile Thr Thr Ala Ile Thr Pro Ala 100 105 110

 $20\,$ Lys Ala Val Glu Val Met Ala Gln Met Asn Val Val Glu Met Met 115 120 125

Ala Leu Gln Lys Met Arg Ala Arg Arg Thr Pro Ser Asn Gln Cys His 130 135 140

Val Thr Asn Leu Lys Asp Asn Pro Val Gln Ile Ala Ala Asp Ala Ala 25 145 150 155 160

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34

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CLAIM OR CLAIMS

I/WE CLAIM:

- 1. A method for producing 3-hydroxypropionic acid comprising the steps of providing in a fermenter a recombinant microorganism which expresses genes
- 5 for non-native enzymes which are capable of catalyzing the production of 3hydroxypropionic acid from glycerol;

providing a source of glycerol or glucose for the recombinant microorganism, and

fermenting the microorganism under conditions which result in the accumulation of 3-hydroxypropionic acid.

A method for producing 3-hydroxypropionic acid comprising the steps of providing in a fermenter a recombinant microorganism which carries genetic constructions for the expression of a glycerol dehydratase and an aldehyde dehydrogenase which are capable of catalyzing the production of 3-hydroxypropionic
 acid from glycerol;

providing a source of glycerol or glucose for the recombinant microorganism, and

fermenting the microorganism under conditions which result in the accumulation of 3-hydroxypropionic acid.

- 3. A method for producing 3-hydroxypropionic acid comprising the steps of providing in a fermenter a recombinant microorganism which carries a genetic construct which expresses the *dhaB* gene from *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and a gene for an aldehyde dehydrogenase, which are capable of catalyzing the production of 3-
- 5 hydroxypropionic acid from glycerol;

providing a source of glycerol or glucose for the recombinant microorganism, and

fermenting the microorganism under conditions which result in the accumulation of 3-hydroxypropionic acid.

- 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the gene for the aldehyde dehydrogenase is selected from the group consisting of *ALDH4*, *ALD2*, *aldA* and *aldB*.
 - 5. The method of claim 3 wherein the aldehyde dehydrogenase is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6 and SEQ ID NO:8.
- 6. A recombinant *E. coli* host comprising in its inheritable genetic materials foreign genes encoding a glycerol dehydratase and an aldehyde dehydrogenase, such that the host is capable of producing 3-hydroxypropionic acid from glycerol.
 - 7. A recombinant *E. coli* host comprising in its inheritable genetic materials the *dhaB* gene from *Klebsiella pheumoniae* and the *ald4* gene from *Saccharomycetes* cervisiae, such that the host is capable of producing 3-hydroxypropionic from glycerol.

- 8. A bacterial host comprising in its inheritable genetic material a genetic construction encoding for the expression of a glycerol dehydratase enzyme and an aldehyde dehydrogenase enzyme, such that the bacterial host is capable of converting glycerol to 3-hydroxypropionic acid.
- 5 9. The bacterial host of claim 8 wherein the glycerol dehydratase from *Klebsiella pneumoniae*.
 - 10. The bacterial host of claim 8 wherein the gene encoding the glycerol dehydratase is the *dhaB* gene from *Klebsiella pneumoniae*.
- 11. The bacterial host of claim 8 wherein the aldehyde dehydrogenase is
 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6 and
 SEQ ID NO:8.
 - 12. The bacterial host of claim 8 wherein the gene for the aldehyde dehydrogenase is selected from the group consisting of ALDH4, ALD2, aldA and aldB.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The production of 3-hydroxypropionic acid (3-HP) from glycerol in a bacterial host is described. 3-HP is a useful feedstock for the production of polymeric materials. The genetic engineering of a bacterial host with two enzymes is sufficient to enable production of 3-HP. One enzyme is a glycerol dehydratase and the other is an aldehyde dehydrogenase.

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		First Named Invento	Patrick	F. Suthers
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PATENT APPLI	CATION	Filing Date	08/30/19	999
Declaration OR	Declaration	Group Art Unit		
Submitted X X	Submitted after Initial Filing	Examiner Name		
the specification of which is attached hereto OR was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) I hereby state that I have reviewed and u referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose inform I hereby claim foreign priority benefit inventor's certificate or \$365(a) of a	st and sole inventor (in the property of the p	if only one name is listed called and for which represent the invention. (Title of the Invention) amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) the above identified specifical patentability as defined in Title and States Code § 119(a)-(conflication which designate and states code § 119(a)-(conflication w	Below) or an original, a patent is sought on IRECOMBINANT as United States Application, including the claims, as 4 a 37, Code of Federal Region of a 1 least one country.	n Number or PCT International (if applicable). as amended by any amendment ulations \$1.56.
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nventor's						Date		
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